

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4226

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16682

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, SREF, RO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN TRANSIT FOR NON-QUALIFIED ROMANIANS

1. INTERNAL DEBATE AMONG THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN RESOLVED, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOW SENT A TELEGRAM TO ITS EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST AUTHORIZING TRANSIT VISAS FOR NON-QUALIFIED ROMANIANS DESTINED TO THE UNITED STATES VIA INS PROCESSING IN ROME. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE MFA IS ADDRESSING A LETTER TO THE DCM INDICATING THAT THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL STEP BY THE ITALIANS TO DEAL WITH HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. LETTER REPORTEDLY WILL STRESS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USG IN SEEING THAT ALL RPT ALL ROMANIANS ARRIVING HERE ARE PROCESSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. AT THIS JUNCTURE, TWO PROBLEMS OCCUR TO US WHICH, IT SEEMS, REQUIRE CLARIFICATION PRIOR TO INITIATING THE MOVEMENT OF THE ROMANIANS. THE FIRST CONCERNS THE INS PROCESSING HERE AT ROME. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT HAS REFERRED TO THIS OPERATION AS A TCP RPT TCP MOVEMENT, INS ROME HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO INITIATE SUCH A PROGRAM. IN FACT, IN REPLY TO AN INS ROME INQUIRY ON THIS POINT, INS WASHINGTON

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INDICATED THAT THESE CASES WERE TO BE CONSIDERED AS CONDI-

TIONAL ENTRY APPLICANTS. IF THE ROMANIANS ARE TO BE PROCESSED AS CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS, THEIR STAY IN ROME WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY LONGER THAN IF THEY WERE BEING TREATED AS TCP CASES. TO REDUCE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM ANY PROLONGED PRESENCE OF THE ROMANIANS IN ITALY, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH INS WASHINGTON, IF IT DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, TO SEEK ITS CONSENT TO ESTABLISHING A FORMAL TCP PROGRAM FOR THIS MOVEMENT FROM ROMANIA.

3. SECONDLY, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECEPTION OF THE ROMANIANS HERE IN ROME. WE SUGGEST THAT A PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO THE ONE USED FOR TCP APPLICANTS EX MOSCOW BE ADOPTED. FOLLOWING THIS PROCEDURE, EMBASSY BUCHAREST WOULD CABLE MISSION GENEVA (INFOR COPY TO ROME) THE ARRIVAL INFORMATION, AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, OF EACH FAMILY UNIT MOVING TO ROME. GENEVA WOULD THEN PASS THIS INFORMATION TO ICEM WHICH IN TURN WOULD NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE VOLUNTARY AGENCY IN ROME TO MEET THE ARRIVING ROMANIANS. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY ABOUT THIS MOVEMENT FELT IN SOME QUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN BUREAUCRACY, WE FEEL IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THE ROMANIANS NOT ARRIVE HERE IN A DISORGANIZED MANNER WHICH COULD POSSIBLY CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE TO THE ROMANIANS FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARRIVE IN ITALY, WILL SERVE TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS HAPPENING. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, IT IS REQUESTED TO AUTHORIZE USMISSION GENEVA TO COORDINATE WITH ICEM ALONG THESE LINE. BEAUDRY

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